

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15

STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

INT-08 SCEM-02 DRC-01 /187 W
----- 065301

R 260858Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7036

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12436

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, JA, UR

SUBJ: YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT

1. EMBOFF MET WITH TAKEO MURAKAMI, EXECUTIVE V.P. OF TOKYO GAS, SEPT 21 AT LATTER'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN NEGOTIATIONS ON YAKUTSK GAS PROJECT. MURAKAMI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DELEGATION, HEADED BY SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER OSIPOV, WOULD BE IN US BEGINNING OCT 10. MURAKAMI SAID HE CONCERNED BY REPORTS HE HAS HAD THAT EL PASO GAS WISHES TO DISCUSS WITH SOVIET DELEGATION NOT ONLY EXPLORATION PROJECT, BUT FULL \$3 BILLION GAS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT INCLUDING CREDIT RATES AND EVENTUAL PRICE OF GAS. THIS, MURAKAMI BELIEVES, IS DEFINITELY NOT ADVISABLE AT LEAST UNTIL AVAILABLE QUANTITIES OF GAS ARE KNOWN.

2. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THERE PROBABLY LITTLE USG COULD DO TO CONTROL WHAT EL PASO DISCUSSES WITH SOVIETS. MURAKAMI THEN NOTED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT USG OFFICIALS HAD AGREED WITH JAPANESE EXIMBANK PRESIDENT SUMITA DURING LATTER'S VISIT
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TO WASHINGTON, TO CONSIDER INITIALLY EXPLORATION PHASE OF

PROJECT, AND UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THAT TO TURN TO
FULL PROJECT. MURAKAMI SAID HE HOPED USG IN TALKS WITH
SOVIETS WOULD EMPHASIZE THIS POINT, DESPITE WHAT EL PASO
MIGHT SAY.

SHOESMITH

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